



The Old Ironsides Report

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Lightning Speed, Achtung!

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BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Everybody in the Army is aware of acronyms -- those three or four-letter words that are part of our every day language. One of them is LSA or Life Support Area.

The soldiers of 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, and the Flexible Battalion have added another meaning to LSA: Lightning Speed, Achtung.

The battalion received the mission of building a Life Support Area on Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) as a temporary home for our brother in arms, who are either arriving or leaving our theater of operation.

That is how Camp Flexible was borne.

Led by the soldiers of Charlie Battery, the camp consists of 30 tents, 10 showers, 25 port-a-johns, and everything else that may be needed in a field living area -- air-conditioning units, fans, and mess areas.

"It is nice to have this," said Cpl. Joseph Steven, of the Advance Party element of the 82nd Airborne Division, the first unit to use the camp.

Within one day, the tents were erected, port-a-johns situated, showers activated, and the first unit arrived.

Now, that is what is called lightning speed.

The *achtung* part came with the follow-up tasks of setting cots, providing MREs and water, and a liaison team for further coordination.

That is how the moniker "Lightning Speed, Achtung (LSA)" was borne.

Camp Flexible is not the work of a contracting company. It is the work of the soldiers of the Flexible battalion. Soldiers exchanged their warriors' gear for shovels, pickets, ropes, tents, generators, forklifts, and construction parts.

"Making it happen," said Staff Sgt. William Jones, C Battery's 2nd Fires Platoon Sergeant.

Higher headquarters -- Division Artillery and 1st Armored Division Headquarters -- contributed greatly to the missions, success.

Building the LSA had its challenges such as finding shovels, to getting a lowboy, to acquiring a 70kw generator.

There were some challenges like finding mystery points of contact (POC) were like completing a land navigation course without a compass or a map.

In one case, soldiers went to the airport's terminal to link up with the helicopter's pilot that supposed to be bringing in a much needed piece of equipment, only to find out that the equipment was coming in a road convoy.

All in all, the operation was a success.

However, the battalion's mission continues with position improvements such as placing concertina wire, filling and arranging sandbags.



Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, set up tents and other accommodations for traveling soldiers in "LSA -- Lightning Speed, Achtung." The temporary camp will house units passing through Baghdad International Airport to other locations throughout Iraq.

The battalion's first visitors, the mighty 82nd Airborne are ready to follow on to their final destination ready and ready to go.

The soldiers of the Flexible battalion demonstrated once again that they are second to none. Rocking BIAP, Rock steady!

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety *Safety Scanning*

- ❖ TO BECOME EFFECTIVE SAFETY SCANNERS
 - CONSTANTLY BE LOOKING FOR HAZARDS
 - SPOT AND RECOGNIZE HAZARDS
 - TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE HAZARDS
- ❖ UNDERSTAND BASIC HAZARDS
- ❖ SAFETY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

NEWS

Power Slowly Coming Back in New York

NEW YORK (AP) - The lights started to flicker back on Friday after a massive power outage that shut down the nation's largest subway system, left millions in stifling heat and killed at least one person. Despite the heat and transportation delays, calm prevailed across New York City, even as police and firefighters dealt with double the normal volume of calls and responded to some 800 elevator rescues and 60 serious fires, most started by candles.

Israel to Hand Over 4 West Bank Towns

JERUSALEM (AP) - In a major boost for the "road map" peace plan, Israel has agreed to hand over an additional four West Bank cities to Palestinian control, Palestinian and Israeli officials said Friday. Israel also announced that it will permit Yasser Arafat to travel to the Gaza Strip to visit the grave of his sister Yousra, who died earlier this week and was buried in Gaza City, Israel TV reported. It would be Arafat's first time leaving his besieged compound in Ramallah in more than a year and a half.

Consumer Prices Rise Modest 0.2 Percent

WASHINGTON (AP) - Consumer prices rose by a modest 0.2 percent in July for the second month in a row, easing fears that the country could be heading for an economically dangerous slide in prices. Industrial production, meanwhile, shot up, registering its largest increase since the beginning of the year. The Consumer Price Index, the government's most closely watched inflation barometer, suggested that the nation's pricing picture is fairly stable - that neither an upward spiral in inflation nor a downward spiral toward deflation is in the offing.

Chaplain's thought for the day: *The Olympic Spirit*

The important thing is not to conquer but to have fought at all.

--Olympic motto

People come from all over the world to participate in the Olympics, and they come with a wide range of talent. A lot of them know they will not win a medal, yet they have trained hard for their event. They meet people from all corners of the earth who love the same activity. There is a contagious joy and excitement the athletes share in their time together. It is a sense that the sharing of worldwide joy and peace is indeed possible. Whether we succeed or fail in what we do is not the essential thing. What is important is the heart with which we live our lives.

SPORTS

Duval Quits During Second Round of PGA

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) - David Duval left the PGA Championship early Friday. Aaron Baddeley arrived late. Duval's string of recent troubles continued when he quit, picking up his ball after hitting his tee shot on the fifth hole. Duval, mired in a deep slump, blamed a bad back after making a triple bogey, a double bogey and a bogey in his first four holes.

Oddly Enough

Man on Motorized Bar Stool Pulled Over

RENO, Nev. (AP) -- Police pulled over a man on a bar stool - after a slow-speed pursuit on one of Reno's busier streets. It started Monday when an officer saw a man riding the motorized bar stool at 35 mph. He was being followed closely by a woman in a Ford Mustang. Both driver and rider were pulled over. The woman told police she had been on the phone with a dispatcher reporting the bar stool stolen. The owner of the bar stool confirmed that the stool, powered by a small engine, had been taken three weeks earlier. Jarrett Orcutt, 22, said he had bought it a little over a week ago, thinking it was a toy and added that he had driven it between Reno and nearby Sparks several times. Police estimate its value at more than \$1,000. Orcutt faces Reno charges of possession of stolen property, possession of drug paraphernalia and numerous traffic violations. Sparks police are handling the stolen vehicle report.

This Day in History *August 16th 1977*

Elvis Presley is found dead at Graceland, his mansion in Memphis. While congestive heart failure was cited as the official cause of death, drug abuse was suspected as a contributing factor. He gave his final live performance on June 25, 1977. Six weeks later, on August 16, 1977, his girlfriend found him dead in a bathroom at Graceland. He was buried at Graceland and his estate was passed on to his daughter, Lisa Marie Presley. Nine years after his death, he was one of the first 10 people inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He had earned 94 gold singles and more than 40 gold LPs.